



YOSEMITE STAR PARTY

July 10-11, 2015

Once again, the stars have revolved around the heavens into a perfect alignment for our Yosemite Star Party on the weekend of July 10-11. This is an excellent late third quarter moon, with it rising about 2 or 3AM in the morning. Saturn will be up for your viewing pleasure in Libra!

As of this writing, we will assemble at the volunteer group campsites (Loop C, sites 81, 83, 85, 94 & 95) in Bridalveil Campground (about eight miles from Glacier Point) on Friday through Sunday. These campsites are to be shared (including the bear boxes) by as many MDAS members attending the star party. Both Friday and Saturday nights are scheduled public star parties.

As for services, Bridalveil has restrooms but no showers and can accommodate RVs, but not in the volunteer group sites. There are no service stations in the vicinity of the campground or Glacier Point, so be sure you have enough fuel to get down to Wawona to the south or out of the Park to the west or north.

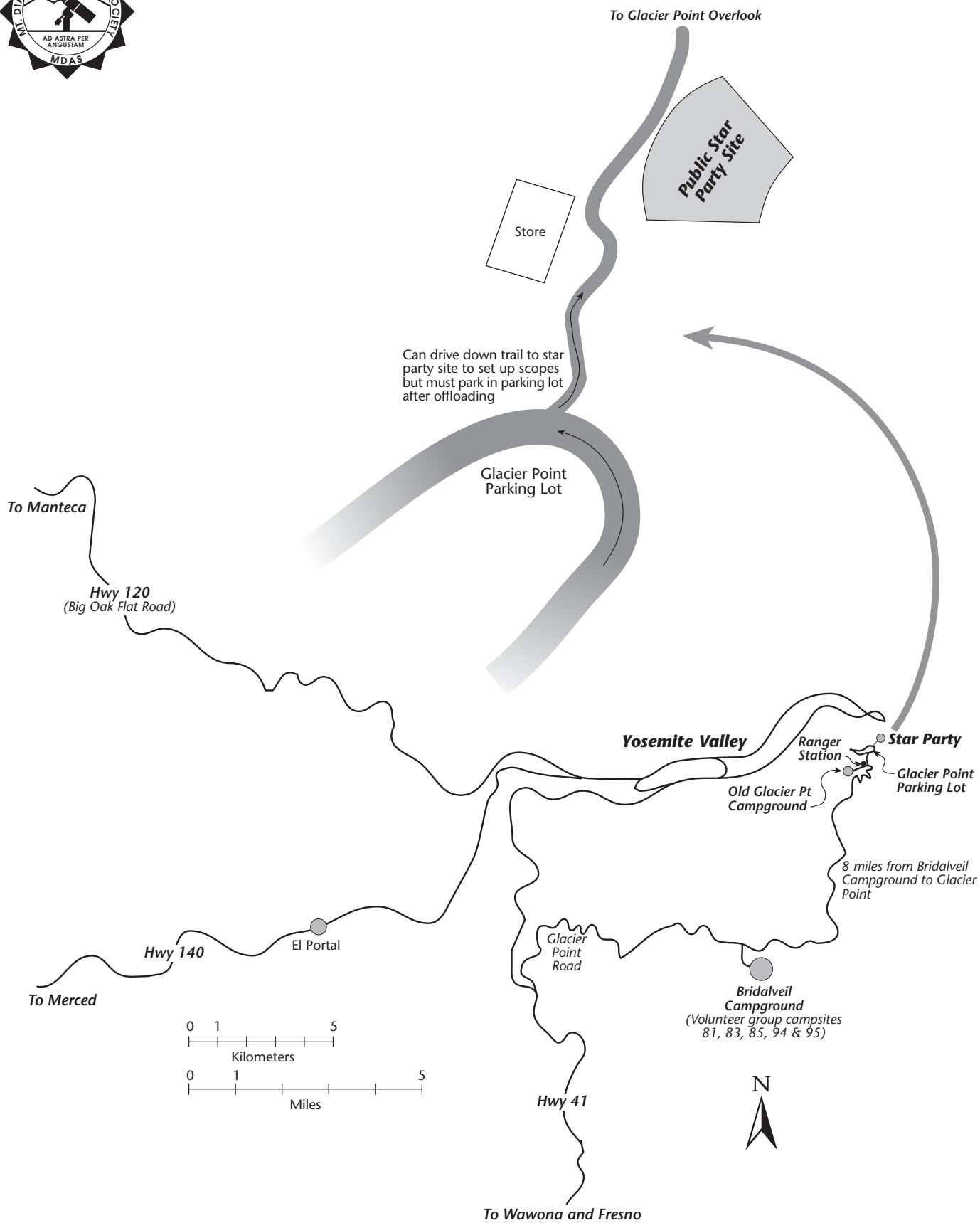
We should plan on setting up the 'scopes at Glacier Point about an hour before sunset each night. After the crowd thins out (about 11 pm) the skies are ours to enjoy. The post that prevents access to the road that runs near the amphitheater will be pulled out, so we may drive up the road. To help alleviate the traffic jams that can occur during the setup period, please offload all your equipment, move your car out to the parking lot and then come back and set up. Cars should not be parked anywhere but in the parking lot while the star party is underway. At the end of the night, break your 'scope down, then get your car so all you have to do is load it up, again to prevent traffic jams.

Contact me at 925-689-9924 or e-mail LDWiens@pacbell.net if you need more info.

LeRoy Wiens



MDAS Yosemite Star Party, July 10-11, 2015



GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN GLACIER POINT STAR PARTIES

I. Getting There:

1. **Entering the Park:** Fill out the bottom of this form and show it to the ranger at the entrance station. You may be also asked to show your telescope to the ranger at the entrance station (for fee waiver). If there is *any* confusion at the gate ask for a blank “**Guest Pass Application**” to visit **Ranger Dave Balogh at Glacier Point**.
2. **Bridalveil Campground:** The group campsite should be reserved for you. A maximum of 30 persons will be able to stay there without charge on Friday and Saturday night. As a rule of thumb, the Park Service would like to have between 10 and 20 telescopes present at the Star Party.
3. **Persons in excess of 30 will need to purchase campsites** on a space available basis (first come first served, sorry no reservations). It may be advisable for a member of your group to come a day early to hold extra campsites at Bridalveil Campground. These sites must be paid for at prevailing rates. Individual campsites have a 6 person/2 car limitation per site.
4. Bridalveil Campground is 8 miles from Glacier Point.

II. The Star Party: (NOTE: Fri. and Sat. are both scheduled Star Parties: Labor Day Weekend Sunday also)

5. One or two **telescopes may be set up to do some solar observing** for the public on Saturday or Sunday. See the ranger on duty at Glacier Point for help in locating your observing site. The rest of the observers should set up their telescopes **for evening viewing no earlier than 7:00 P.M. and no later than 8:30 P.M.** Upon arrival at Glacier Point Parking, look for a ranger for assistance in finding a suitable pad for your telescope. ***Please do not come early.***
6. **All vehicles must be removed to the parking lot immediately after off loading** equipment at the observing site. This is a safety measure, and a way to keep the public from trying to park in the observing area.
7. **The purpose of the Star Party is to provide an interpretive program on astronomy to the park visitors,** please be prepared to answer questions, give explanations, and otherwise provide to the park visitors an introduction to astronomy. There will be problems of light pollution from flashlights as these visitors are not used to moving around in near total darkness. The club members are asked to be tolerant of persons who feel the need to use their flashlights. The clubs may wish to provide red plastic covers and rubber bands for the visitor's flashlights. After midnight when the program is over, the astronomers may request all flashlights off and they may then feel free to take photographs and observe for the rest of the night.
8. **There is no camping** (includes sleeping in your vehicle) **at the Glacier Point parking lot.** All persons must sleep at the campground. Open fires are not permitted in the star party area, but Coleman type gas stoves are acceptable for hot drinks, etc. Restroom facilities are available in the parking lot.
9. **One of your officers may** be assigned by the ranger to monitor the program at Glacier Point, the set up and removal of equipment at the observing site, and the conduct of the star party hosts. In the absence of regular N.P.S. personnel this person will have the authority to make decisions.

We trust that these operating procedures will make the star Parties more enjoyable and function smoothly. If you have any questions or recommendations for improvement please feel free to communicate with the naturalist in charge.

Entrance Fee Waiver:

To Entrance Station: **Mount Diablo Astronomical Society** is providing a naturalist program (as listed in the Yosemite Guide) at Glacier Point this weekend. Dates of fee waiver are Friday–Sunday, to Monday on Labor Day weekend. Please call 372-0346 if you need further information.